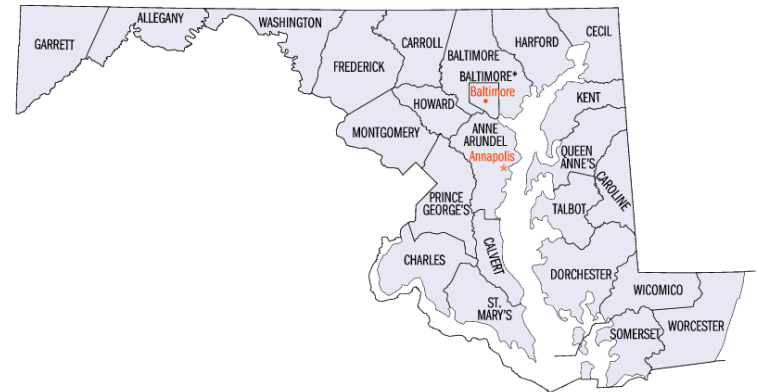




The Little Red Schoolhouse of Tomorrow

Maryland Charter School Authorizers Conference

November 9, 2005





Agenda

1. Introduction

2. Application Process

3. State Board Decisions

4. Panel Discussion

5. Lunch

6. Facilities

7. Breakout Sessions

8. Wrap Up and Closing



Opening Remarks

Mr. Richard Steinke

Deputy Superintendent
For Instruction and
Academic Acceleration

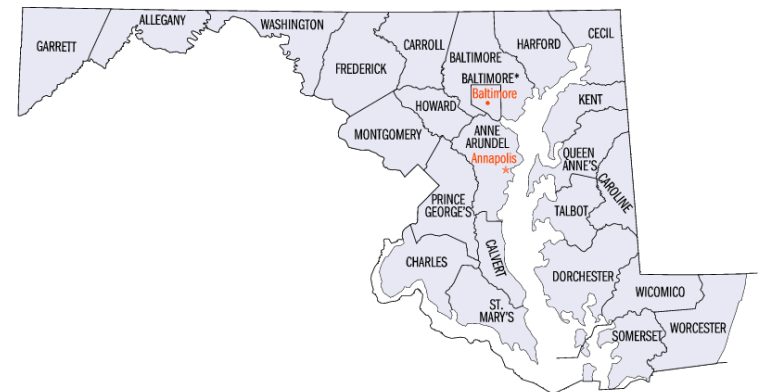


The Authorizing Process



From the Applicant's
Point of View

From the Authorizer's
Point of View





Presenters

- **Kathy Lane** – Director of Alternative Education and Safe Schools – Anne Arundel County Public Schools
- **Laura Weeldreyer** – Coordinator of New, Charter and Community Schools – Baltimore City Public Schools
- **David Arnett** – Coordinator – Office of School Innovations – Maryland State Department of Education



Overview

The Charter School Application Process

From A to Z with some \$\$\$\$

- The Beginning
- The Middle
- The End





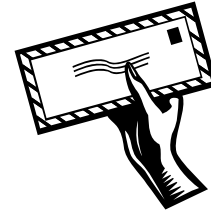
The Beginning

How do You Know Someone's Out There?

☐ Phone Call?



☐ Letter of Intent?



☐ Prospectus?



☐ Last Will and Testament?





The Beginning

- What are You Looking for in the Initial Contact?
- What Assistance do You Provide?
- What are the Other Resources Available?
- When does the Applicant Submit?



The Beginning

| Projected Timelines for Charter School Openings | | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (Based on Experience and Capacity of Applicant) | | | | |
| | | Short - Experienced | Moderate | Long - Inexperienced |
| Year 1 | February 1 | | | Pre-Submission Begins |
| | March 1 | | | ↓ |
| | April 1 | | | ↓ |
| | May 1 | | Pre-Submission Begins | ↓ |
| | June 1 | | ↓ | Application Submitted |
| | July 1 | | ↓ | ↓ |
| | August 1 | Pre-Submission Begins | Application Submitted | ↓ |
| | September 1 | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| | October 1 | Application Submitted | ↓ | Application Approved |
| | November 1 | ↓ | ↓ | Charter Signed |
| | December 1 | ↓ | Application Approved | ↓ |
| | January 1 | ↓ | Charter Signed | ↓ |
| Year 2 | February 1 | Application Approved | ↓ | ↓ |
| | March 1 | Charter Signed | ↓ | ↓ |
| | April 1 | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| | May 1 | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| | June 1 | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| | July 1 | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| | August 1 | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| | September 1 | School Opens | School Opens | School Opens |
| Total Months | | 13 Months | 16 Months | 19 Months |



The Beginning

Where's the Beef?



**Preplanning Grant
\$10,000**



The Middle

- The Major Part of the Process
 - From the Application Submission
 - To the Signing of the Charter



The Middle

- The Application
 - Submission
 - Review
 - Technical
 - Content
 - Approval
 - Time Frame – 120 days by Law





The Middle

- The Charter
 - Application to Legal Contract
 - Everything Finished?
 - 30 Days by SBoE Decision

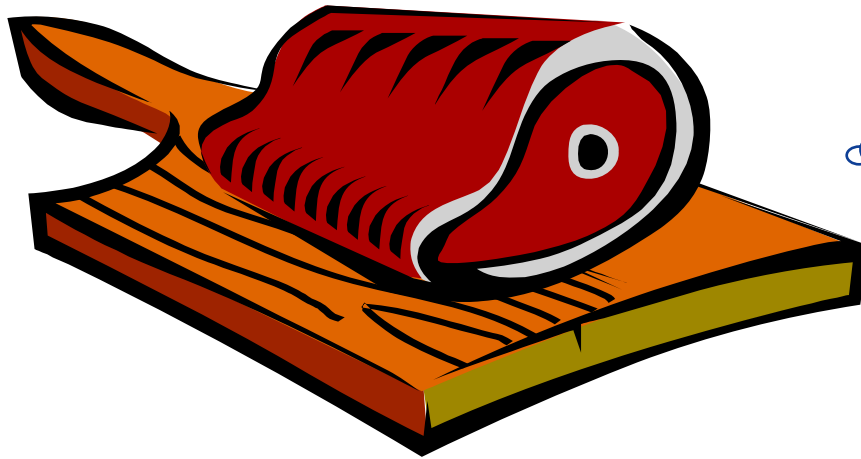


The Middle

| Projected Timelines for Charter School Openings | | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
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| Year 2 | February 1 | Application Approved | ↓ | ↓ |
| | March 1 | Charter Signed | ↓ | ↓ |
| | April 1 | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| | May 1 | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| | June 1 | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| | July 1 | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| | August 1 | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| | September 1 | School Opens | School Opens | School Opens |
| Total Months | | 13 Months | 16 Months | 19 Months |



The Middle



**Planning and Design Grant
\$100,000 (2 parts)**



The End

- Getting from the Contract to Opening Day
 - The Challenges
 - The Building
 - The Curriculum
 - The Staff
 - The Unknowns



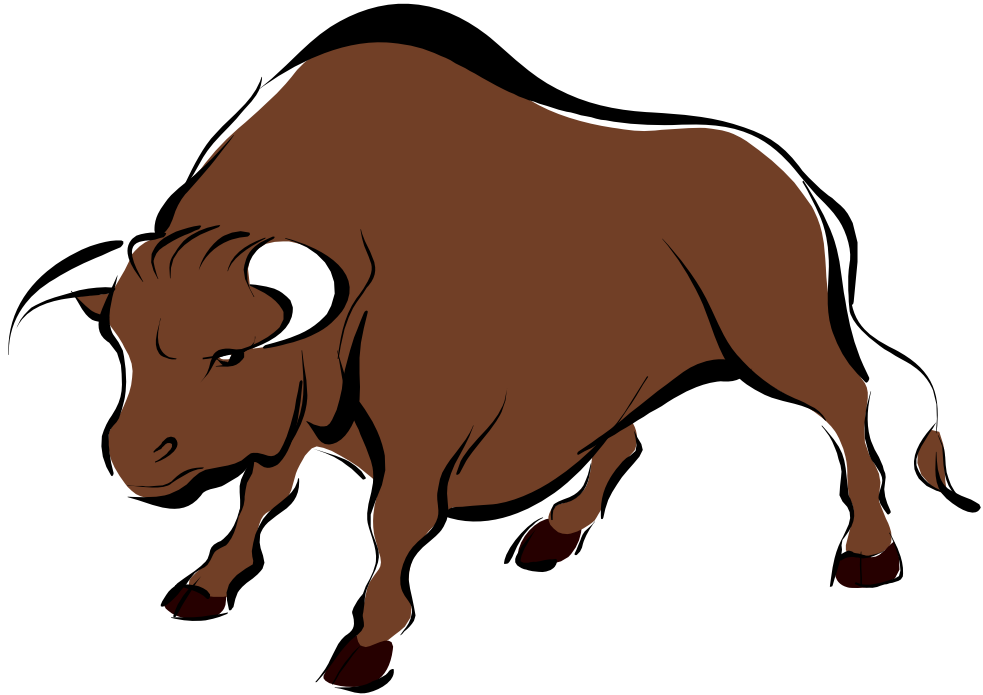
The End

| Projected Timelines for Charter School Openings | | | | |
|---|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| (Based on Experience and Capacity of Applicant) | | | | |
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| | August 1 | ↓ | ↓ | ↓ |
| | September 1 | School Opens | School Opens | School Opens |
| Total Months | | 13 Months | 16 Months | 19 Months |



The End

“The Real
Beef”



**Implementation Grant
\$300,000 (2 parts)**



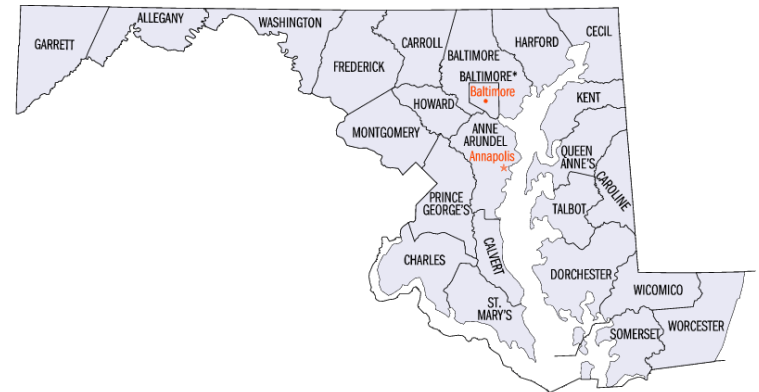
For the Applicant

The End is Now the Beginning!!!





How Will State Board Decisions Affect the Authorizing Process





Number of Cases

- To date, 9 cases have come before the State Board of Education regarding charter school issues.
- Currently **1** case is in appeal to the SBoE.



What are the Issues?

Major Issues dealing with:

- Appeal of application denials
- Appropriate funding levels
- Timeline (review of application)



Local School System Critical Issue

Deadline for Review of Application:

§9-104(a) mandates that a local board review a charter school application and render a decision on the application within 120 days of its receipt.

In the case at hand the SBOE found that delaying the process for an additional ten months for consideration of an application is not in compliance with the intent of the Maryland charter school law.

Opinion 4-32:

**Potomac Charter
School v. PG County
Board of Education**

Date: August 4, 2004

Page 3



Local School System Critical Issue

Deadline for Review of Application:

There is nothing in the law that permits a local board to defer consideration of an application for a public charter school or to defer the establishment of charter schools generally until a future date. As the State Board has already determined, the legislature intended for local boards to proceed with all deliberate speed in receiving and reviewing charter school applications.

Opinion 4-38:
City Neighbors Charter
School v.
Baltimore City Board of
School
Commissioners
Date: October 6, 2004
Page 5



Local School System Critical Issue

Setting limits for the establishment of charter schools:

The SBoE found no basis in the Maryland Public Charter School Act that authorizes the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners to adopt a policy not to charter more than three schools in the first three years of the charter school program. There is nothing in the Act that permits the arbitrary setting of a limit on the number of charters that are granted.

Opinion 4-38:
City Neighbors Charter
School v.
Baltimore City Board of
School
Commissioners
Date: October 6, 2004
Page 5



Local School System Critical Issue

Funding:

Regarding the appropriate level of funding for charter schools. ***Refer to pages 6-7 in the following opinions:***

Opinions:

**05-17 City Neighbors
Charter School v. Baltimore
City Board of School
Commissioners**

**05-18 Lincoln Charter
Public School, Inc
v. PG County Board of
Education**

**05-19 Patterson Park Public
Charter School v. Baltimore
City Board of School
Commissioners**

Date: May 26, 2005



Local School System Critical Issue

Timeline for finalizing the charter agreement:

The thoroughness of the application process should pave the way for the incorporation of the approved application into the body of the charter school agreement with the need for minimal additional negotiation in completing the charter agreement; therefore, the charter agreement must be completed within 30 calendar days from the date of the decision approving the charter application

Opinion 05-17:
City Neighbors Charter School v. Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners
Date: May 26, 2005
Page 3



Local School System Critical Issue

Standard of Review/Evaluation of an Application:

The SBoE found that if a numerical rating scale is used to evaluate an application, the local board must provide an analytical key that describes with specificity what is necessary or adequate to achieve each point on the scale and that the 3-page evaluation letter should have included as an attachment a copy of the complete charter school evaluation and recommendation prepared by the local superintendent and staff.

Opinion 05-08:
Potomac Public Charter
School v. PG County
Board of Education
Date: March 11, 2005
Page 7



Local School System Critical Issue

Rubric Sample

| Vision (10 Total Points) | | |
|--|--|--|
| Exemplary (In addition to meeting all conditions listed in "Meets Standard") | Meets Standard (Meets all conditions listed for each criterion) | Does Not Meet Standard (Does not meet one or more of the conditions listed for each criterion) |
| Points: 8-10 | Points: 5-7 | Points: 0-4 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants have clearly articulated a vision of schooling that offers expanded options for educationally disadvantaged students. The applicants have a track record of success in assisting students in meeting rigorous state standards. Applicants demonstrate a complete and in depth understanding of the needs of the students they are seeking to serve. <p>(more)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant has articulated a vision of schooling that incorporates options for educationally disadvantaged students. Program goals are clear and relate to the vision. The philosophical, theory and research base for the charter school vision is clear. Applicants demonstrate an understanding of the needs of the students they are seeking to serve. <p>(more)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants have provided a minimal, or no, description of a vision of schooling, minimally incorporating unique learning opportunities or options for students. Program goals are unclear and do not relate to vision. The philosophical, theory and research base for the charter school vision is unclear or lacking <p>(more)</p> |



Local School System Critical Issue

Non Profit Status:

The SBoE believes that if an entity has obtained a federal tax identification number, it will have sufficiently demonstrated its non-profit status for the purpose of applying to be a charter school.

Steps to Non-Profit

- 1 – Apply to State to Become a Non-Stock Corporation (Articles of Incorporation)
- 2 – File w/ IRS Form 1023 (Non-Profit Status with By-Laws and Conflict of Interest Form)
- 3 – After All Approvals – Operating as 501 (c) 3

* *Entity may apply for EIN at any time.*

Opinion 05-21:

**Dr. Ben Carson Charter
School v. Harford
County Board of
Education**

Date: June 7, 2005

Page 4



Local School System Critical Issue

Comparing a grant approval to a charter approval:

A grant application and a full blown charter school application are not comparable documents. A high score on one does not necessarily mean that a high score on the other must follow. Moreover, the grant approval letter makes clear that approval of the charter is a condition precedent to receiving the grant. In short, the grant score is not relevant in judging the sufficiency of the charter school application. Sufficiency of the application must be judged on the quality of the application alone.

*** *Will affect charter school applicants***

Opinion 05-21:

**Dr. Ben Carson Charter
School v. Harford
County Board of
Education**

Date: June 7, 2005

Page 6



Local School System Critical Issue

Hearing on a Board Decision:

There is no legal requirement that a charter school applicant be afforded a hearing prior to a decision on the merits of the application.

Opinion 05-21:
Dr. Ben Carson Charter
School v. Harford
County
Board of Education
Date: June 7, 2005
Page 8



Guiding Principles

- Communication
- Transparency
- Feedback
- Collaboration
- Network (other districts, MSDE, associations)
- Set firm timelines
- Realistic Expectations



Need More Information?

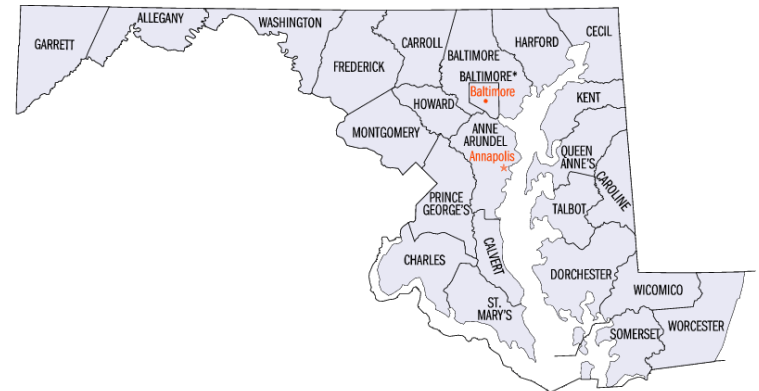
Please go to:

[http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/stateboard/legalopinions/
subject_index.htm](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/stateboard/legalopinions/subject_index.htm)



The Charter Process – Real District Experiences

A Panel Discussion Moderated by Mr. Richard Steinke





Panel Members

- **Dr. Michele Krantz** – Charter School Liaison – Frederick County Public Schools
- **David Stone** – Director of New, Charter and Community Schools – Baltimore City Public Schools
- **Kathy Lane** – Director of Alternative Education and Safe Schools – Anne Arundel County Public Schools



The Charter Process

Real District Experiences

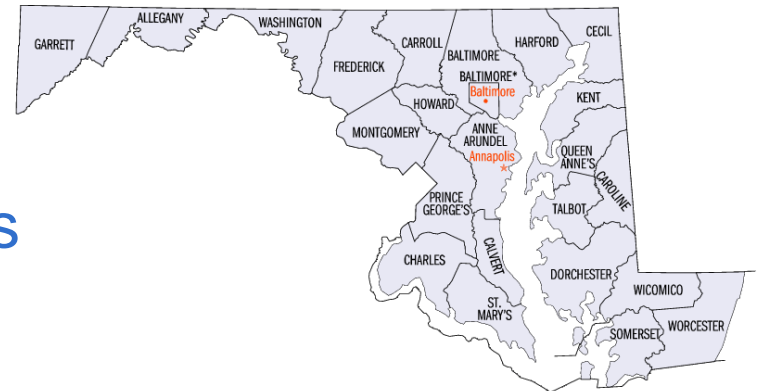


Facility Acquisition

MSDE Perspective

Presented by
Barbara Bice

Chief,
School Facilities Branch,
Division of Business Services





MSDE Facility Issues

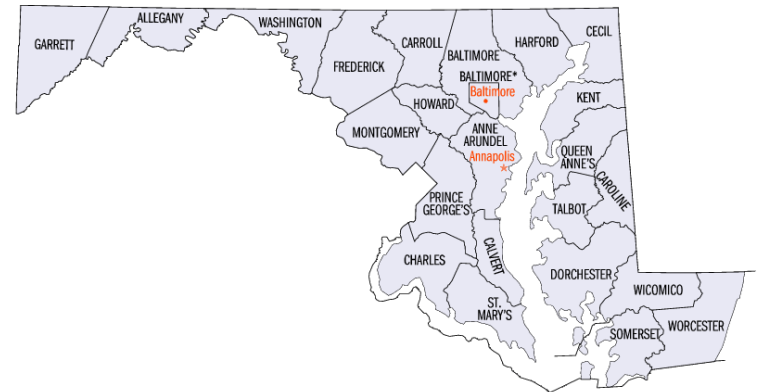
- State of Maryland Requirements
 - Annotated Code of Maryland – Education Article
 - Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR)
- MSDE Facilities Planning Guidelines and Technical Bulletins
- Procedures for Review of Leases
- Procedures for Review of Construction Plans
- Public School Construction Program & Charter Schools
- Sample List of Local School System Facilities Requirements



Facility Acquisition

FCPS Charter School

Presented by
Dr. Michele Krantz





Brief History

- Frederick County Board of Education adopted Charter Policy in February, 2001
- This was prior to state charter school law
- First charter school was approved in June, 2002
- Monocacy Valley Montessori Public Charter School (MVMPCS) is now in its fourth year of operation.
- It started this year in its second facility



First Facility

- Difficult time finding a suitable facility
- Leased an old warehouse
- Renovations needed to create classrooms
- Difficulty passing inspections
- Multiple facility issues for 3 years
- Lease not renewable after July, 2005



Process to Find New Facility

- Responsibility of MMCI to locate facility
- Leased First Baptist Church as church was relocating
- Many months to negotiate lease and meet inspection codes
- State provided *Acquisition of Real Property by Lease for Use as Public School* for guidance (Attachment 1)
- FCPS provided list of requirements (Attachment 2)



Requirements

- Occupancy Permit with all required approvals
- City/County building codes and regulations
- State Charter School Requirements (Attachment 1 and 3)
- Technology requirements
- Negotiated agreement requirements
- Building specific needs (ventilation, traffic flow, etc.)



Process

- MMCI located facility
- Direction from FCPS for use of facility as a public school
- Funding commitment letter for lease negotiations
- Request for deficit increase
- Request for waiver of fees schedule Policy 203.3
- BOE approval of building for use as a public school
- Request state superintendent's approval of lease



Resources

- michele.krantz@fcps.org

FCPS Charter School Director and Board Liaison

- ray.v.barnes@fcps.org

Executive Director of Facilities Services

- hal.keller@fcps.org

Executive Director of Fiscal Services

- Millergs5@verizon.net

Stacey Miller, charter school parent and facilities expert



Break Out Discussion Tables

- Table 1 – **Facilities**
 - *Barbara Bice & Kathy Sanner*
- Table 2 – **The Application Process**
 - *Laura Weeldreyer & David Arnett*
- Table 3 – **Special Education**
 - *Linda Bluth & David Stone*
- Table 4 – **Hiring & HR Issues**
 - *Kathy Lane & Michele Krantz*
- Table 5 – **Resources**
 - *Kathy Carmello & Joni Berman*



The Little Red Schoolhouse of Tomorrow

Wrap Up

**Maryland Charter School
Authorizers Conference**

November 9, 2005

